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SIXTH YEAR.



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**PILING UP THE DEBT.**

The provincial and municipal debts of British Columbia amount to \$165,000,000, and they are increasing at a tremendous rate. The local government makes no attempt to live within its income. Last year the receipts were estimated at \$10,398,381, and the expenditure was \$15,702,912. This year the revenue is estimated at \$5,944,000, and the expenditure at \$11,300,000. The deficit, therefore, will be over \$4,000,000, and it will be, like the deficits which have taken place for so many years, added to the accumulating debt. The province, like the municipality, should be able to live within its income. British Columbia has not for many a day attempted to accomplish this feat. Without some change in the immediate future British Columbia must become hopelessly bankrupt.

Britain has more to fear from its political than continental war. At the present moment the government is in a precarious condition and may go to pieces on any day.

**SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED.**

It is the government, not the commission of the province, that is going to develop the power at Queenston Heights. The government purchased the Seymour plant and its appurtenances, and may hand them over to the control and direction of the commission later on. What has happened between Sir Adam Beck and the Ferguson-McGarry faction in the government? Sir Adam was very active before the Public Accounts Committee while the row was on with the provincial auditor over the Commission's accounts. He was very active, and aggressive, too, at Ottawa over the discussion of the radial electric question. He was absent during the debates in the legislature on the power question, and all the bills and reports which were handled by Ferguson and McGarry. A deaf ear was turned to Mr. Rowell when he appealed to the government for the presence of Sir Adam in order that light might be had upon the situation. There is an explanation for all this. What is it?

Here's audacity on an unparalleled plan. Toronto Board of Control cuts \$284,395 out of the estimates of the Technical school, and \$100,000 out of the estimates of the Board of Education. Kingston's little cut of \$5,000 to the Board of Education looks very insignificant beside this.

**CARVELL AS A REFORMER.**

The attempt of Mr. Carvell to expose wrong doing at Ottawa, to get at the facts with reference to the shell contracts, to which an end to profanity and waste and graft is not the outcome of a desire to revel, as some suppose, in bitter partisanship. Mr. Carvell is a political reformer.

Arthur Hawkes is to be credited with bringing this fact out. The correspondent of the Toronto Star had occasion to discuss the master passion (for patronage) with the member for Carleton, N.B., and he described it as the root of all political troubles. In the dialogue which followed Mr. Carvell said that the parties had to be born again or they would be destroyed. He had not been so encouraged for a long time as he was at a convention which took place in New Brunswick a couple of months ago. Then a couple of hundred men got together and laid down a platform, aiming at a destruction of the master evil. "The spirit of the convention," said Mr. Carvell, "surprised me. The fellows are sick and sore at the present situation, and they are

going out to remedy it. They mean business. What are you going to do in Ontario? You are not perfect there, are you?"

New Brunswick wearied of corruption and administrative wrongdoing? It is pretty nearly time. It is time that the people put an end to any rule, by any party, which is influenced by the emoluments of office instead of by principle. Mr. Carvell appears in a new light, that of a great reformer, whose mission is to purge public life of all impurity and to lift men above the dead level to which patronage has reduced them.

Mr. Carvell is a man of boundless energy and power. He is absolutely fearless. He is also chivalric. He could make amends to an opponent when recently it was brought home to him that he had reflected unfairly upon a colleague in the committee. He can strike a terrible blow when it is necessary, and he declares that he has no interests other than the people's to serve. Now watch him give evidence of his new profession.

The Montreal Star appeals to the people to abstain from travelling much this year, at Easter or any other time, and put the money thus saved to a better use. Advice that is sound enough but not likely to be acted upon.

**"WHICH ROAD?"**

The Whig's artist, in his cartoon for this day's issue, points a moral. He pictures a man with a bag of money who is setting out to make some purchases, and he reaches the parting of the ways. In one direction lies the home town with its busy merchants trying to build up the community, and they are succeeding with the support of the people. The other direction leads out of town and to the merchants who are not contributing, by their presence or means, to the up-building of local interests.

The man with the money bag hesitates. He debates, mentally, what he should do. He remembers the luring things he has heard and read about these out-of-town chaps. He recalls the manner in which his neighbors have been imposed upon because they were too willing to be deceived. He is not oblivious to the fact that he owes something to the merchants who have bought his produce and helped him to save the money he now proposes to spend. Quickly the decision comes. He will stand by those who have stood by him. He will appreciate that true reciprocity which is not always popular.

Would that all men, (and all women), were equally wise. Would that all of them reflected upon what they should do before they spend their money. If they did the community idea would grow. The mail order business would languish. The home market and the home town would get the benefit they deserve. Boosting one's city or village or neighborhood is sometimes discouraging business. But it produces eventually the desired result. No community builder should be discouraged. All things come to those who work. As an anonymous puts it: Boost and the world boosts with you.

Knock, and you're on the shelf, for the booster gets sick of the man who kicks. And wishes he'd kick himself. Boost when the sun is shining. Boost when it starts to rain. If you happen to fall, don't lie there and bawl. Boost for the town's advancement. Boost for the things sublime. For the chap that's found on the topmost round. Is the booster every time.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Let us see. Was not the Orange Sentinel very much dissatisfied with Regulation 17? Has our contemporary changed front upon the subject?

A year ago to-day the fight of St. Julien, in France, in which the Canadians saved the day, occurred. It is an anniversary of many sacred memories.

The Westminster Gazette refers to President Wilson's ultimatum to Germany as a "high-toned document." Which is referred to, the dictation or the dictation?

Once more peace prevails in the imperial government. Once more a crisis has been averted by great men sinking their personal views for the good of the nation.

John McCormick, the singer, put \$37,000 into pictures in the last three weeks. If they lend sweetness and vigor to his vocal notes the investment will be a good one.

According to the Hon. Mr. Hanna the province will make provision for the treatment of inebriates. Has this anything to do with the prohibition which dates from September?

Lloyd-George wants conscription with the understanding that it is not to be enforced so long as a sufficient number of recruits can be secured without it. A measure of preparedness. Only that and nothing more.

The city, by special legislation, has been authorized to levy and collect from the property owners the

cost of surfacing certain streets in 1915 with tarvia. But the legislature has practically said to the council: "Don't do it again."

In the first three months of this year, according to a report which has been made by the minister of militia, on the motion of Dr. Edwards, there were 85,575 enlistments. The nationalities and denominations of the men cannot be defined.

On it that Mr. Ross, the Montreal expert, does not approve of the power contract between the City Commission and Mr. Campbell in its present form. He suggests a flexible contract and one which does not require the city to take a certain quantity of power each day for six months in the year.

The act which the Legislature of Ontario has passed authorizes the assessment of all ratable property, ratable income and business, for patriotic purposes. The only exemptions are those referred to in section five of the Assessment Act. Under these circumstances the special levy will be light.

**PUBLIC OPINION**

**Study It And You'll Get It.**  
(Moncton Transcript).  
The Times editorial, notwithstanding, to the contrary, the chief keeper of Dorchester penitentiary, as everybody in Dorchester knows, was dismissed by this government because he was a Liberal.

**Regulation 17.**  
(Ottawa Citizen).  
Quoting the Orange Sentinel on the bilingual question should do much to disprove the contention of the French-Canadians that the real motive of Regulation 17 is to injure the religion professed by the great majority of them.

**Province in Trouble.**

(Toronto Globe).  
British Columbia's trouble accumulates. The province has had to pay interest of \$316,000 in default on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway's bonds. This is the railway that Sir Richard McBride insisted on financing until the party revolted and forced his retirement.

**KINGSTON EVENTS  
25 YEARS AGO**

Many fences were blown down to-day as the result of a heavy wind-storm. W. C. Carruthers is home from a trip around the world. Twenty-five young Kingstonians left for Chicago, to-day in search of work.

**LIBERAL PRESS.**

**A Very Costly Official.**  
Brantford Expositor.  
Sir Richard McBride, the overfed rat who deserted the sinking government ship in British Columbia to be

**RANDOM REELS**

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

**PREPAREDNESS.**

Preparedness is something which everybody is in favor of so long as it does not increase the high cost of living. If a big army and navy could be built up and paid for by the railroads and the gasolene trust, it would not be necessary for the newspapers to hold straw polls and postcard showers in order to locate the direction of the wind.

There are two schools of preparedness—for and against. Both schools have earnest, superheated advocates who feed long columns of statistics to the common people and convince relatives that they are absolutely correct. By the time the ordinary man has read what both schools have to say, he becomes so mentally fatigued that he couldn't recognize the truth if he saw it crawling up out of a well.

The idea of preparedness is to prevent some foreign nation from landing on our shores with both feet and conquering us before we are ready to have it done. It is a disagreeable experience for any nation to be conquered by people to whom it has never even been introduced, but who drop in after dark and bring a stout yoke with them. Yet this has been the fate of many a

**Rippling Rhymes**

**PLOWING**

I watch the farmer plow; he's busy at it now; he deftly tools his span of mules, and whacks them with a bough. One minute he says, "Gee!" Next minute, "Haw!" says he; the mules, they haw, and strain and draw upon the double-tree. The plow point strikes a stone; the farmer heaves a groan; and then his ribs surveys his ribs, to find the broken bone. Then, finding he is whole, he takes a ten-foot pole, and prods the mules, and says, "You fools, such tricks I will not thole!" The plowshare does not scour, and he, for half an hour, suspends the rules and lams the mules with wondrous vim and power. To turn the furrow o'er—it is the oldest chore; man's tilled the earth since Adam's birth, and will forevermore. And over, as he walks, he picks up clods and rocks, and pelt his beast, his horse or mule or ox.

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come agent-general for that province in London, draws a salary of \$15,000 per annum. The Victoria Times tells how this compares with what other servants of the Canadian and British people receive:

It is twice as large as the salary received by the agent-general for New South Wales; five times as large as the salary of the agent-general for Ontario, the leading province of the Dominion. It is \$5,000 more than the provision made for the Canadian high commissioner and \$2,000 more than the salary paid to Sir Robert Borden, prime minister of Canada. It is larger than the remuneration given to Sir John Jellicoe, commander-in-chief of the British navy.

The above arrangement is a very nice one for Sir Richard, but it is not likely to last very long, if the results of recent bye-elections in British Columbia are any indication. What need has the Pacific province anyway for an agent-general in London?

**Anniversary Of A Promise.**

Montreal Herald.  
It was a year ago on Saturday last that Sir Robert Borden made the following promise in the House of Commons: I desire to say that any further investigation that may be possible in the matter, either for the purpose of further restitution, if any is deemed possible, or for any other proceedings of any character which may be found necessary to vindicate the public honor and the public interest, will be taken by the Department of Justice. Let us take the most prompt and energetic means to provide that restitution shall be made, and that persons guilty of wrong-doing shall be punished so far as the law will permit. I want to say, in so far as these men are concerned, two things: First, if the laws of this country permit the courts of justice to enforce restitution against them, that restitution will be enforced; secondly, that if the laws permit the walls of the penitentiary to enclose them, they will go there.—Sir Robert Borden, in the House of Commons on April 15th, 1915.

**CONSERVATIVE PRESS.**

**Robbing The Hydro.**

Toronto World.  
The real charge against the government is that of robbing the hydro of its independence and seeking to bring it under political control. It is impossible with the legislation in view, to say that this charge is not without foundation.—Had a Liberal Government moved to legislate similarly, a Conservative opposition would have rended the skies with denunciation. What is bad for one is bad for the other. To the independent voter all politicians look alike.

**Hopes For Sir Sam.**

Montreal Star.  
There will be a general and generous hope throughout the country that bluff Sir Sam will come out of the affair with untarnished reputation. This does not mean for a moment that the country will want the investigation to develop blindness at any point, or to apply the whitewash brush to anybody. The charges are most grave and disquieting. If they are proven, every Canadian will hang his head in shame—and some Canadians should be compelled to hang by their heads, at least metaphorically. We are for a full, fearless and unlimited enquiry.

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